

Torrance, California  
December 14, 1942

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Monday, December 14, 1942 at 5:00 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being  
Councilman: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. AB-  
SENT: Councilmen: None.

Being an Adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the California Trust Company in answer to repeated requests of Engineer Jain that said company, as owners of the earthquake damaged building at 1514-18 Cabrillo Avenue, the Ford Garage, either repair or brace the building in order to eliminate the existing hazard to life and property. It was stated that complete plans have been made to repair the building, the file having been placed before the War Production Board for consideration. Additional time was requested in order that California Trust Company may be guided in its action by the decision of the War Production Board. It was stated that, unless favorable action is taken by the Board, immediate steps will be taken to brace the building.

A report from the City Engineer and Water Superintendent was read in connection with a recent offer made by Mr. John Kirsch to present to the City, free of all encumbrances, a water plant located at 182nd Street and Prairie Avenue.

It was stated that Mr. Jain and Mr. Stanger had checked this water system thoroughly, it being their opinion that the City would assume a liability in accepting the offer, reasons for this opinion being stated at length.

It was the recommendation of Mr. Jain and Mr. Stanger that the City Council not accept the water plant.

Engineer Jain verbally addressed the Council, stating that he is of the opinion that Mr. Kirsch can best benefit the City and the consumers using the water by forming a mutual company and by someone operating it as a home enterprise.

Councilman Hitchcock stated he understood this plan will be followed by Mr. Kirsch if the City does not accept the plant.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of Mr. Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer and Director of Public Works, and

Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager Municipal Water District No. 1, that the City Council refuse the offer made by Mr. John Kirsch to present to the City, free of all encumbrances, a water plant located at 182nd Street and Prairie Avenue, be complied with; and that Mr. John Kirsch be given a sincere vote of thanks by the City Council for his generous offer and community spirit. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

It was suggested that Engineer Jain render whatever assistance is desired by Mr. Kirsch in forming a mutual company. It was also suggested that Mr. Kirsch contact the City Judge for legal advice, or await the return of the City Attorney and consult him.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$30.00, plus tax, be made for a four-drawer legal size file cabinet for the City Custodian of Defense Materials. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$870.50, including sales tax, be made for purchase of one (1) 1941 Model DeSoto Custom 4-Door Sedan, including fluid drive and simplimatic transmission, list price being \$1520.50, trade in allowance on 1941 Chevrolet being \$650.00, for the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the salary of Jack Hudson, Street Department, be increased from \$150.00 per month to \$155.00 per month, effective December 1, 1942, due to increased duties being performed by Mr. Hudson. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to hire a temporary mechanic for work at the City Garage at a salary of \$200.00 per month. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Chief Stroh advised that Mr. Butler of the Department of Motor Vehicles had contacted him and requested that the City make arrangements to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue 1943 automobile license plates in the City by providing a suitable building for transaction of this business.

Several buildings were mentioned as suitable as to size, location and convenience.

After discussing the matter briefly, it was decided to allow Chief Stroh to locate a suitable building and make his recommendation at his earliest convenience.

Tuesday, December 15, 1942 at 7:30 P.M. was agreed upon as a suitable time to hold a meeting with Pat MacDonnell, Housing Coordinator, for discussion of housing matters.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$65.00 be made for purchase of 1 - 1935 Model Cadillac Sedan to be used in transporting Fire Department emergency equipment by trailer. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, in which Chief McMaster submitted names of Mr. S. C. Shepherd and Mr. A. Shriner for approval as temporary employees of the Fire Department.

Councilman Powell moved that S. C. Shepherd and A. Shriner be employed temporarily as firemen of the Torrance Fire Department, effective December 14 and 15, 1942, respectively, to remain as firemen of the Department for the duration of the war or until replaced by younger men, if they prove satisfactory. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that Chief Stroh make a survey and report to the Council locations of stop signs which he feels can be safely removed, this being in conformity with procedure being followed by other cities since the beginning of gasoline rationing which has curtailed a large percentage of traffic, thereby eliminating necessity of a number of stop signs.


Chief Stroh advised he had already given this matter some thought and would comply with the suggestion made by Councilman Hitchcock.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 5:25 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance